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DDI-998-68

NPIC/D-84-68

, 3 APR 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

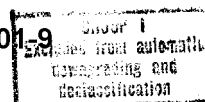
SUBJECT: Proposed Contract with [REDACTED]
for an Advanced 9" x 18" Light Table [REDACTED]25X1
25X1

1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of funds for contract. The specific request is stated in Paragraph 6.

2. One of the most fundamental tools for photo interpretation is the light table, which is essentially a device for holding film while shining light through it. In the work of an imagery interpretation center, an assortment of light tables is required to handle the various sizes and types of film and to aid such variants in the interpretation process as scanning, mensuration, and detailed analysis. Each interpreter must have access to differing types of tables; he may actually use several at the same time, as when, for example, comparing imagery taken from different missions or from different collection vehicles. One of the light tables used at NPIC is the [REDACTED] Model GFL 918. It has been the workhorse used in scanning large quantities of imagery from aircraft acquisition systems; e.g., U-2, BLACK SHIELD, SR-71, drones, etc. The 918's, however, have had hard use for seven years, are badly worn, and lack many desirable features available through recent technology. NPIC currently has more than 85 Model 918 GFL light tables in use. Additional units (some 38) are in use by DDI's Imagery Analysis Service. In 1965 the Center decided that a replacement for the old 918 should be developed. NPIC solicited competitive bids to develop a table tailored to its needs. To make possible a very thorough test of the many new features requested by P.I.s, parallel developments were carried out by [REDACTED] at a combined cost of approximately [REDACTED] for two experimental models. Each model had some excellent features, although neither combined all desirable features properly. Each superior feature has been evaluated for operational utility and cost effectiveness. Our evaluation of these models has permitted us to come up with specifications for the development of a light table to replace the obsolete 918s. The new tables will reduce operator fatigue and, by requiring less attention to the operation of the light table, will enable him to devote more attention to substantive interpretation work. It should be stressed that we expect this improved performance to be greatest at the most important times--during heavy work peaks when the interpreters must spend many consecutive hours at the light table.

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Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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SUBJECT: Proposed Contract with [REDACTED]
for an Advanced 9" x 18" Light Table [REDACTED]

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25X1 3. This project is to produce a prototype light table to the specifications which were derived from our survey of PI needs and were tested on the [REDACTED] experimental models. The proposed light table is described in detail in the attached proposal. Its main features include a bi-directional mechanical film drive to allow the operator to precisely control the movement of the film with one handwheel; an electric film drive for constant speed scanning and rapid film rewind; an improved illumination system whose intensity can be varied for the viewing of lighter or darker film; a means of effectively masking out the illuminated area not covered by film; and a new, positive locking, tilt mechanism to replace the crude ball joint presently used to adjust the table's position.

4. Extensive coordination, particularly with DDS&T, EXRAND, and those military service elements engaged in photo interpretation, has revealed no duplicative project.

5. Nine companies were asked to submit bids for this development. Of those responding, the [REDACTED] had the best technical proposal and was the next to the lowest bidder; as a consequence, they were selected to perform the work.

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25X1 6. It is requested that approval be granted to negotiate with [REDACTED] for a contract to develop a preproduction prototype Advanced 918 Light Table for an estimated cost [REDACTED]

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25X1

ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachments:

R&D Catalog Form

25X1 APPRO [REDACTED]

Deputy Director for Intelligence

11 APR 1968

Date

Distribution:

Original - NPIC/TSSG/SS/LB (After approval)

1 - DDI

2 - NPIC/ODir

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R & D CATALOG FORM		DATE 28 March 1968
1. PROJECT TITLE/CODE NAME ADVANCED 918 LIGHT TABLE PROTOTYPE	2. SHORT PROJECT DESCRIPTION This project is to develop a production prototype 918 Light Table incorporating the best features of two earlier engineering prototypes.	
3. [REDACTED]		
5. CLASS OF CONTRACTOR Manufacturer		6. TYPE OF CONTRACT CPFF
7. FUNDS	8. REQUISITION NO.	9. BUDGET PROJECT NO. NP-V-3-02038
FY 19 67 [REDACTED]	10. EFFECTIVE CONTRACT DATE (Begin - end) April 1968-November 1968	11. SECURITY CLASS. A.A. - Confidential T. - Unclassified W. - Unclassified
FY 19 68 [REDACTED]		
FY 19 69 \$ None		
12. RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE/OFFICE/PROJECT OFFICER TELEPHONE EXTENSION DDI/NPIC/TSSG/DED, [REDACTED]		
13. REQUIREMENT/AUTHORITY Existing 918 light tables, used extensively for interpreting tactical photography, are wearing out. They are awkward to use, inefficient, and inadequate.		
14. TYPE OF WORK TO BE DONE Engineering Development		
15. CATEGORIES OF EFFORT		
MAJOR CATEGORY Viewing Systems	SUB-CATEGORIES Light Sources	
16. END ITEM OR SERVICES FROM THIS CONTRACT/IMPROVEMENT OVER CURRENT SYSTEM, EQUIPMENT, ETC. A production prototype will be produced with drawings, manuals, and reports.		
17. SUPPORTING OR RELATED CONTRACTS (Agency & Other)/COORDINATION Two previous NPIC concurrent contracts have produced competitive prototype models of this advanced light table. The best features of these were included in the specifications for this model. Co-ordination has been performed through EXRAND		
18. DESCRIPTION OF INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENT AND DETAILED TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (Continue on additional page if required) The Advanced 918 Light Table includes some of the best features of the earlier prototypes, but will contain only those features necessary for efficient interpreting of tactical photography. The advanced table will have a modified transport system to facilitate rapid film rewinding, a high intensity light source with intensity varying controls and adjustable masks, bi-directional manual transport for efficient film positioning, a superior tilt mechanism, and other advanced features.		
19. APPROVED BY AND DATE		
OFFICE Approved For	DEPUTY DIRECTOR Release 2003/01/28 : CIA-RDP78B04770A002000010001-9	DDCI